

## Mining and Quarrying of Sand, Gravel, and Other Materials

This activity applies to surface excavation and on-site storage of sand, gravel, minerals, peat, clay, rock, and other materials that are mined in unincorporated King County. Mining operations have the potential to introduce a variety of pollutants into runoff, including nutrients, suspended solids, abnormal pH, and metals. Precipitation can easily erode cut slope faces and stockpiled materials, readily causing stormwater contamination problems.

The Department of Ecology regulates all mining activities in the state for protection of water quality, and thus is the authority for enforcement of stormwater requirements related to water quality protection. Ecology has developed a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Sand and Gravel Operations, Rock Quarries, and Similar Mining Facilities, Including Stockpiles of Mined Materials, Concrete Batch Operations, and Asphalt Batch Operations. The King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) also has authority to regulate mining activities under the Drainage Ordinance/[Clearing and Grading code](#), with Ecology's water quality guidelines as the basis. [However, if permit conditions do not adequately protect stormwater, additional BMPs may be required under KCC 9.12.](#)~~herefore, there are no additional requirements for mining and quarrying in this manual.~~

---

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Stormwater Services Section at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.